

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to offer the amendment that is the, it's the pre-1988 language that was in the Constitution. Everybody wants to go back to the language that was in the Constitution prior to the passage, first, by this body and then by the citizens of the state because they're the ones that adopted it. It was wholeheartedly endorsed by every entity, every group that's involved and then it was interpreted by the court. Well, I've heard at least five different times on the floor this morning and in every other stage of debate on this issue that we want to go back to the way things were. Let's take it back. Read the amendment. What it does is it takes registered voters out and it puts electors back in. It says that in effect you are now going to use in Section 2 it says, the power may be invoked by petition wherein the proposed measure shall be set forth, that the petition be for the enactment of law, it shall be signed by 7 percent of the electors of the state and that the petition be for the amendment of the Constitution. The petition therefore shall be signed by 10 percent of such electors. Let's go back to the way things were and solve the problem. I will listen. I mean it clearly was a mistake that everyone feels that was made. Somehow that electors are a much better standard by which to judge these percentages. I'm willing to admit that, okay, maybe there was a mistake. Let's take it back. Let's go back to the way things were prior to the change in the Constitution in 1988. The amendment is before you

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Before we go on to the speaking on this amendment I'd like to call your attention to the north balcony where Senator Vrtiska has 21 Johnson-Brock sixth graders with their teachers and a guest. Would you like to stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you. The following have their lights on, Bernard-Stevens, Beutler, Schimek and Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens, do you want to speak to the Hall amendment? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in support of the Dierks amendment and against the Hall amendment to the amendment. Senator Hall suggests that we go back to the language that was pre-1988. I think that misses the point in the sense that nobody wants to go back to the ambiguity that existed back in those days. What we want to do and what has been done both in the committee amendment and in the Dierks amendment is to simply clarify what everybody thought was the law before the court changed the